

"I did not live an extraordinary life, but I lived the life I chose. I chose the man I adored to marry, and I loved the man I chose. And we raised the three most beautiful and joyous boys. I was born into a beautiful family with two sisters and a brother. I was blessed with the best life raising my joyous boys, and they kept me laughing all the way. I had meaningful work, through which I developed some of my best friends.

I enjoyed being on the staff of the Land Alliance, and I loved my service to the Glen Cove Hospital and the North Country Garden Club.

I lived my life well and I lived in peace. My many friends have been caring and generous to me; and I will miss them all greatly."

Barbara's devotion to her family and our community will be sorely missed. While she leaves behind large shoes to fill, she also leaves behind a life to aspire to.

HONORING THE GREATER HARLEM CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. ADRIANO ESPAILLAT

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 21, 2018

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following Proclamation in honor of The Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce:

Whereas, The Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce has been a steadfast presence in Harlem since its establishment in 1896 originally chartered as the Harlem Board of Commerce; and later to the Uptown Chamber of Commerce to better represent itself as the first and ongoing business organization in Upper Manhattan; and now as the omnipresent Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce;

Whereas, The Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce has been committed to Harlem and Upper Manhattan with a demonstrated focus on commercial development, educational services, as well as special attention to arts & culture, travel, and tourism;

Whereas, The Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce for over 130 years has been a key community stakeholder integral to the development of major infrastructure including the construction of the George Washington and Tri-Borough Bridges connecting Manhattan to the outer boroughs and New Jersey and New York's first subway line, the IRT (No. 2 & 3 Train);

Whereas, The Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce brought Harlem out of the Great Depression and into the national discourse as a beacon of social-commentary and expression through the Harlem Renaissance and home to the 1939 World's Fair;

Whereas, The Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce has been at the vanguard of the development and revitalization of Harlem including Strivers Gardens, an extraordinary example of mixed-use residential and commercial development projects, and the Striver's Center Development Project that has been a tremendous benefit to the community at large;

Whereas, The Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce to elevate Harlem, created a singular celebration of Harlem's unique culture and history which began as "Harlem Day" and has since grown and scale and breadth to "HARLEM WEEK". This extraordinary celebra-

tion of Harlem Life features a diversity of cultural events: Afro-Cuban, Gospel, R & B, and Jazz music, sports, cinema, business fairs and vintage automobiles, and a unique "Taste of Harlem" at local eateries and clubs. In 2017, Harlem Week attracted more than 3.5 million people. In 2018, it included the celebration of Aretha Franklin's legacy and featuring Janet Jackson as an honoree;

Whereas, The visionary leadership including Lloyd Williams, President and CEO; Voza Rivers, 1st Vice President; Andrew Reddick; Michele Scott; and, Valerie Roberson among others who have lent their talent and passion to the concern for the next generation; acknowledging historical contributions of Women and LGBTQ in the African-American community as well as creating opportunities for recruiting youth to be trainees for Wall Street firms;

Now, therefore I, ADRIANO ESPAILLAT, Representative of the Thirteenth Congressional District of New York in the United States House of Representatives, do hereby recognize The Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce and its long history and contributions to the vitality of Harlem's economic growth, arts & culture, educational institutions, health awareness, and mixed-use residential-commercial developments as well as to the creation of HARLEM WEEK which has a local and global impact, and commitment to strengthening ties to the Harlem community during the "End of the Year" Holiday Gala Reception, on Tuesday, December 18 2018.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN A. YARMUTH

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 21, 2018

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I unfortunately was unable to be present for a vote taken on the House floor on December 20, 2018. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner:

Rollcall Vote No. 472: nay.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF BONG'S JEWELERS

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 21, 2018

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the legacy of Bong's Jewelers in Corning, New York.

For the last one hundred and twenty-six years the residents of Corning have celebrated birthdays, engagements, weddings, and anniversaries with gifts from Bong's Jewelers. Founded by two brothers in 1892, Bong's has been run by the family for generations, helping the people of Corning celebrate their happiest occasions.

It is with a heavy heart that I recognize the final closing of this community institution. Jeff Bong has owned the family shop since 1975 and after more than forty years of hard work and success, Jeff has announced his well-deserved retirement.

Having known Jeff and his family for decades, he represents a pillar of our community

that will be sorely missed with the closing of his business. However, I know his ties to our community will endure and we are forever grateful for his efforts and commitment to all of us.

We wish the Bongs well in their retirement and thank them for their service to our community.

Given the above, I ask that this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations and join me to honor Bong's Jewelers, a family-owned business of the Corning community for the last one hundred and twenty-six years.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SALEM NEWS

HON. JASON SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 21, 2018

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 100-year anniversary of the Salem News, the local newspaper of my hometown—Salem, Missouri. The Salem News began operations on June 13, 1918, with O.H. Grosse as the owner/publisher and M.W. Gustin as the editor. For \$1.50 subscription, you could enjoy the newspaper for an entire year. The late Charles Stacey, Robert L. "Bob" Vickery and W.R. "Ray" Vickery also served as publishers of the Salem News, a position currently held by Donald Dodd.

Very few businesses reach 100 years of existence. This is a testament to the staff for consistently providing relevant and timely information to the community. Today, it is my great privilege to congratulate and honor the Salem News before the United States House of Representatives.

HONORING JAMES "CHIEF" WILSON

HON. VAL BUTLER DEMINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 21, 2018

Mrs. DEMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a legend in the Orlando community—the peerless James "Chief" Wilson.

Mr. Wilson was father to two daughters, but a father figure for thousands. As band leader at Jones High School—a program he built from scratch into one of the finest programs in the country—he brought a lifetime of learning, music, and joy to his students and his community.

Mr. Wilson was famous not only for his high expectations, but for his lifelong advocacy for the young men and women in his care. He helped them prepare for college and win scholarships. He stayed in touch with them for years after they graduated. Many credit him with turning their lives around.

Simply put, he was a role model. He provided the guidance that only an incredible teacher can give. Telling his pupils that "perfect practice makes perfect performance," he cultivated an attitude of excellence in his students that would last a lifetime.

But underneath the demand for excellence and the incredible legacy that he built, there was also the man himself—a man whom his